

The House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment offers the following substitute to HR 471:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Congress of the United States oppose legislative efforts to expand the  
2 reach and scope of the Clean Water Act such as the previously proposed Clean Water  
3 Restoration Act; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, over the past 35 years, the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) has governed the  
5 nation's waters and has helped ensure that Americans enjoy some of the cleanest rivers and  
6 lakes in the world; and

7 WHEREAS, the CWA has struck a proper balance between protecting our clean water and  
8 maintaining state, local, and federal regulatory authority and responsibilities; and

9 WHEREAS, states and local governments exercise abundant care over the water and land use  
10 decisions that are within their jurisdiction; and

11 WHEREAS, previously proposed federal legislation, The Clean Water Restoration Act,  
12 intended to make extreme changes to the CWA that threaten to destroy the careful  
13 intergovernmental balance that has been the hallmark of the law during its long history; and

14 WHEREAS, this legislation would give the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
15 (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) authority over all  
16 interstate and intrastate waters and their tributaries, including nonnavigable waters, thereby  
17 granting to Congress authority far beyond the original scope of the CWA; and

18 WHEREAS, if passed, this legislation would dramatically expand the reach of the federal  
19 bureaucracy and would fundamentally erode the ability of state and local governments to  
20 manage their own water resources; and

21 WHEREAS, the legislation would also grant the EPA and the Corps the authority to regulate  
22 public or private activities affecting these newly defined waters regardless of whether the

23 activity is occurring in, or may impact, water at all, creating nearly limitless federal  
24 permitting requirements that further intrude upon local government land use decisions; and

25 WHEREAS, a recent nation-wide poll shows that 63 percent of Americans surveyed oppose  
26 the proposed extreme changes to the CWA, 47 percent of whom strongly oppose any change  
27 in the CWA that would give the federal government veto power over state and local  
28 governments when it comes to local land and water use decisions.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body request that the Congress of the United States oppose legislative  
31 efforts to expand the reach and scope of the Clean Water Act such as the previously proposed  
32 Clean Water Restoration Act, thereby preserving the traditional power of states over land and  
33 water use decisions.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each member of the Georgia  
36 congressional delegation.